



**Sandra Shewry**  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

## **Important Letter**

Dear Clinical Laboratory Scientist Applicant: ***READ THIS LETTER***

Thank you for your interest in California licensure as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) or "Limited" Scientist. There are various avenues for approving candidates for admission to the CLS and limited license examinations based on degree, course credits and practical training. Employment in research, test development, teaching or industrial laboratories does not fulfill the experience requirement for admission to the licensing examination.

There are two avenues of consideration for qualifying based on your academic degree. The first requires a Bachelor degree in medical technology, commonly called a BSMT degree, where the clinical laboratory practical training consists of at least 32 weeks and is completed in the last year of the program. This avenue is commonly called a 3+1 program.

The second avenue is based on an earned bachelor's degree awarded from a United States (U.S.) accredited college or university. Alternatively, for education completed outside of the United States of America, an evaluation based upon equivalency by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) may be required. (The AACRAO web site is "[www.aacrao.org](http://www.aacrao.org)" or telephone 202 293-9161). In this second case the following specific courses are also required: 16 semester units of chemistry including biochemistry and analytical chemistry, 3 semester units of physics which must include instruction in light and electricity, 18 semester units of biological science including medical microbiology, immunology and hematology. In addition, the clinical laboratory practical training acquired after graduation shall have consisted of one year in the following areas: bacteriology, serology, parasitology, immunohematology, chemistry, urinalysis and hematology. This avenue is commonly called a 4+1 program.

If you have United States Armed Forces clinical laboratory training/experience, please document this on your application. Other documentation is necessary, as is a notarized copy of your DD-214 and official transcripts showing courses stated above in chemistry, physical and biological science. Certificates of completion of training for the above are also required.

In order to apply for a temporary license you must satisfy the following requirements: be approved to take CLS exam, have a current California address, and submit a written request. For non-U.S. educated/trained applicants, you must have the laboratory director (CLIA certified), who wishes to hire you, send a letter on the laboratory letterhead stationary directly to LFS requesting a temporary license.

Application for a "Limited" Scientist's license in chemistry, immunohematology, microbiology, hematology, toxicology, histocompatibility, cytogeneticist, or genetic molecular biology, will be considered only if the individual possesses a bachelor's degree with a major or courses appropriate to the field for which a license is being sought. In addition, one-year postgraduate clinical laboratory training/experience in the specialty area needs to be verified.

Those persons desiring to obtain practical clinical laboratory training in California must fulfill the academic requirements outlined above and possess a trainee license. To obtain a trainee license you must request and complete a Clinical Laboratory Trainee Application.